## ASIA CHALLENGE

[Matt. 9:6-38]. "And seeing the multitudes [Jesus]...said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Some people tell me that the greatest challenge facing the church in the world today is right here in the United States. And they may be right. Others say that that the greatest challenge is the 20th century rise of Islam. And perhaps they are right. But I have a different suggestion. I think our greatest challenge in the 21st century will be in Asia. The whole continent. I am convinced that Asia is now, and will be for the next hundred years the largest military, political, economic, and Christian challenge in the world.

It's the largest continent in the world. It has the most people in the world. Europe is just a little peninsula dangling off the west end of Asia and about to drop into the Atlantic Ocean. Asia has more people than any other continent on this earth. $60 \%$. Do you know what percentage we have here in North America? Just 6\%. 6 compared to 60.

So where are the largest, the poorest, the hungriest crowds in the world today. Surely not here in Princeton. Not even in New York. In another 30 years I am told, Bombay (Mumbai?), India, will have more of an absolutely poor and hungry population than all of New York City's five boroughs combined.

All the other continents shrink in comparison. Asia's second largest country is India--not the largest, which is China. Until very recently, this second largest country, India, had more people than the entire population of the two whole continents, Latin America and Africa, put together! And out of every hundred babies born in Asia, 15 will die before they are five years old.

Asia is first in just about everything. Not just its huge size. Asia has the driest place on earth--the central desert of Iran. And it has the wettest place on earth--Cherrapunji in Bengal, India, where once 9 meters of rain fell in less than one
month. That's not just inches, that is 30 feet of rain in one month. And Asia has the coldest place in the world--in Siberia, near Irkutsk where the temperature falls to 94 Fahrenheit below freezing (minus 70 degrees Centigrade). And it has the hottest place in the world--tahe Persian Gulf where the summer sun regularly shoots the temperature up tol over 122 degrees Fehrenheit. And as everyone knows, Asia has the lowest sea (the Dead Sea), and the highest mountain, Mt. Everest (J Herbed, An Intnroduction to Asia, p.23f.)

But the most challenging single statistic that $I$ have come across about Asia' huge population is this. Some years ago I learned that in the next twenty years, one billion Asian children will pass the age of 18. It didn't mean much to me at first. One billion Asian young people turning 18. So what? It happens every year. But that's the point. Every year! And that means, as one economist has been trying to tell us-it means that every twenty years one billion young in Asia will be added to the industrially active age group in the world. And one billion workers, he says, is about ten times the entire existing manufacturing labour force of North America and Western Europe combined, even if Japan is added to the calculation. It means, he said, that "manufacturing will go east." Asia will become the industrial center of the world. (N Macrae, The Economist, London, 5/7/1977, p. 42).

That's great, he thought. That's great for Asia. But after thinking about it for a while, the same economist, Norman Macrae, had a sobering second thought. What will happen to the future of Asia, for the whole world for that matter, if those same billion Asian youths don't turn into workers as one by one they reach the age of eighteen? What if they can't find work? Then, he said, we face the terrifying possibility that they will fall into one or the other of what he called "the three modern roads to hell": terrorism, war, or over-population. Now overpopulation may not seem to be in quite the same category as war and terrorism as "a road to hell", but it may be. Suppose, he says, all these young people turning 18 simply become parents as the same rate their fathers and mothers did in Asia. There will be no more room for so many people, and the earth will become a living
simply become parents as the same rate their fathers and mothers did in Asia. There will be no more room for so many people, and the earth will become a living hell.

But to me, the thought of one billion young people in Asia becoming 18 years of age over the next 20 years means much more than what that economist was thinking. I'm a Christian, and it means to me that during the next 20 years one billion young people will be passing through the most evangelistically reachable years of their lives. A billion young people to be reached for Jesus Christ when they may be most open to His call. To me, and I hope to you, that is part of the greatest challenge, the most urgent challenge, in the world today.

Jesus said to his disciples. "The harvest is plenteous but the labourers are few." How are the churches in Asia meeting this stupendous challenge?

How much do we here in Princeton know about the churches of Asia. Let me unload some hard facts on you. First the bad news. Asia is, after 2000 years, the least Christian continent in the world. I'll try not to drown you in statistics--but here are few you might want to think about.

What Asian countries have the largest communities of Christians?:

| 1. China | $80 \mathrm{~m}(+/-)$ | 6. Vietnam | 6.6 m |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2. Philippines | 68 m | 7. Japan | 4.5 m |
| 3. India | 62 m | 8. Papua New Guinea 4.4 m |  |
| 4. Indonesia | 27 m | 9. Pakistan | 3.8 m |
| 5. South Korea | 19 m | 10. Armenia |  |

In some ways, perhaps, a more important question may be, What countries have the highest and lowest percentage of Christians in proportion to their population? Here are the highest:

| 1. Papua New Guinea $95.1 \%$ | 8. Kazakhstan | 16.7\% |  |
| :--- | :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 2. Timor, Eastern | $92.1 \%$ | 9. Indonesia | $13.1 \%$ |
| 3. Philippines | $89.7 \%$ | 10. Kuwait | $12.7 \%$ |
| 4. Armenia | $84.0 \%$ | 11. Singapore | $12.3 \%$ |
| 5. Georgia | $66.6 \%$ | 12. 8 Arab \& Russian sts. $9.5 \%^{1}$ |  |
| 6. Lebanon | $47.8 \%$ | 13. Burma (Myanmar) | $8.3 \%$ |
| 7. South Korea | $\mathbf{4 0 . 8 \%}$ | 14. Vietnam | $\mathbf{8 . 3 \%}$ |

And here are the lowest:

| 1. Afghanistan | $0.0 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2. Yemen | $0.2 \%$ |
| 3. Iran | $0.5 \%$ |
| 4. Bhutan | $0.5 \%$ |
| 5. Turkey | $0.6 \%$ |
| 6. Bangladesh | $0.7 \%$ |
| 7. Cambodia | $1.1 \%$ |
| 8. Mongolia | $1.3 \%$ |

But overall, remember that Asia is still the least Christian continent in the world. About $8 \%$. Christian. Buddha was born in Asia, and most of the world's Buddhists live in Asia. Confucius was born in Asia, and most of the world's Confucianists live in Asia. Mohammed was born in Asia and most of the world's Muslims live in Asia. Hinduism was born in Asia, and most of the world's Hindus live in Asia.

But Jesus Christ was also born in Asia, and proportionately fewer Christians live in Asia than on any other continent. Why? . Is it because Jesus is still saying "The field is white unto harvest but the laborers are few"?.

If Asia is the greatest Christian challenge in the world, statistically speaking, you may be expecting me to say, "So go to Asia". But I'm not. I can tell

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1 An average for Kazakhstan (16.7%), United Arab Emirate
(11.1%), Qatar (10.5%), Kyrgistan (10.4%), Bahrein (10.2%),
Palestine (8.6%), Oman (4.9%), Saudi Arabia(3.7%). [Av. 9.5]
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you why I went to Asia, but that does not mean that you have to be like me. However, I can tell you why I did go to Asia. One day in my middler year here at the seminary the chairman of the Board came to speak to us in chapel. He was Robert E. Speer, and he was also Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. He stood up, and at one point in his address he reached down to take his watch our of his vest pocket. Holding it up he said, "Young men (there weren't any women here then), this watch can tick for nine and a half years without numbering the unbelievers in China alone." Nine and a half years! I could never get that statistic out of my mind. And I went to China.

But I'm not going to tell you to go to China, not even to Asia, or anywhere. Jesus didn't do it that way, and I'd better do no more than what Jesus did when he faced the multitudes. He didn't say, "The laborers are few", so "Go". He said the laborers are few", so "Pray". And if you think prayer is a cop out, a poor substitute for real action in mission for the world, you've forgotten what Jesus says about the power of prayer in our mission to this unbelieving world. Go back and read your Bibles. Jesus said, "Pray", before he told his disciples to "Go" And God bless you wherever he finally sends you.

- Samuel Hugh Moffett


## ASIA CHALLENGE

My text today is Matthew 9: $3 \mathbf{5}^{5}$-38. "And seeing the multitudes [Jesus? was moved with compassion (with love)...and said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." $\langle 9: 37, j \delta$

This is a missionary Bible verse. It comes straight from Jesus. And it has three important words: LOVE, PRAY and SEND. Three words for evangelism and missions. That is our challenge from Christ for mission.

First, LOVE. Mission begins with love. It doesn't begin with money. It doesn't begin with education. Mission doesn't even begin with evangelism--I'll get around later to telling you that mission without evangelism isn't Christian mission. But mission doesn't begin with evangelism. It begins with love. And ìj begins at home, not at the other end of the world. Jesus and his disciples were practically at home, just across the lake from their homes in Galilee. And Jesus saw the hungry multitudes and he was filled with love and compassion for them and wanted to help them. Mission begins with your own neighbors, in your own neighborhood, or you will never get around to the greater needs of the neighbors beyond your borders. Which brings me to Asia.

Some people tell me that the greatest evangelistic and missionary challenge facing the church in the world today is right here in the United States. And they may be right. Others say that the greatest challenge is the 20 th century rise of Islam. And perhaps they are right. But I have a different suggestion. I think our greatest challenge in the 21st century will be in Asia. The whole continent. I am convinced that Asia is now, and will for the next hundred years be the largest political, economic, humanitarian and Christian missionary challenge in the world.

Asia. It's the largest continent in the world. It has the most people in the world. It covers one-third of the world's surface. Europe is just a large, dumpy
peninsula dangling off the west end of Asia and about to fall into the Atlantic ocean. Asia has more people than any other continent on this earth. It has $\mathbf{6 0 \%}$ of all the people in the world. Do you know what percentage of world population we have here in North America? Just $6 \%$. 6 compared to $\mathbf{6 0}$. Out of every 100 human beings in the world, only 6 are in North America; 60 are in Asia. In terms of numbers, it's Asia that most needs evangelists and missionaries.

So where are the largest multitudes are whom Jesus told us to love, and pray for, and send out our missionaries to. Asia is where the largest, the hungriest crowds in the worldare today. And that is where the most people are who have not yet found Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Not in [Princeton or Bloomfield]. Not even in New York. [In another 20 years I am told, Bombay (Mumbai?), India, will have more of an absolutely poor and hungry population than all of New York City's five boroughs combined.]

There are many hard places in this troubled world, but for sheer masses of suffering people, all the other continents shrink in comparison with Asia. Asia's second largest country is India--not the largest, which is China--but until very recently, Asia's second largest country, India, had more people than the entire population of the two whole continents of Latin America and Africa combined!

But The most challenging single statistic that I have come across, thrmin, concerning Asia' huge population is this. In the next twenty years, one billion Asian children will pass the age of 18 . I did ngt at first think much of that fact. One billion Asian young people turning 18. It happens every year, so what? But that's the point. Every year 1 billion more young people turning 18. It means, as one economist has been trying to tell us for several decades--it means that one billion young in Asia will be added to the industrially active age group in the world in only twenty years. And one billion workers, he said, is about ten times the entire existing manufacturing labour force of North America, Western Europe combined, even if Japan is added to the calculation. It means, he said, that "manufacturing will go east." Asia will become the industrial center of the world. (N Macrae, The

Economist, London, 5/7/1977, p. 42).
Bu after noting, the dazzling opportunities ahead for least parts of Asia and the one billion young workers who will be added every 20 years, the same economist, Norman Macrae, had a sobering second thought. What will happen to the future of the world if those same billion Asian youth don't turn into workers as they one by one pass the age of eighteen? What if they can't find work? Then, he said, we face the terrifying possibility that they will face one or the other of what he called "the three modern roads to hell": terrorism, war, or over-population. Overpopulation may not seem quite in the category of "a road to hell", but it may well be. Suppose, he says, all these young people turning 18 simply become parents as the rate their fathers and mothers did in Asia. There will be no more room for so many people, and the earth will become a living hell.
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I wonder if Jesus, seeing Asia's oppressed multitudes, is not saying to us, "Don't you love them any more?", you -people there in comparatively wealthy, healthy America.

PRAYER. But the next few sentences in our text are a disturbing surprise. When Jesus saw the multitude, and was filled with compassion for all those hungry, tired people, what did he do about it? Look at the text--he said, "Pray". That's the second word I emphasize in the text."Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest".

I suppose to most people, even to some Presbyterians, that sounds like an evasion, a cop-out. "I'm so sorry for them. Let us pray". Why didn't he get busy and find them food? Why didn't he start a protest march on city hall? Jesus didn't even tell his disciples to go and preach to them, to start a revival. He told them to pray!

As i well remember, Korean Presbyterians, whe take the Bible very and seriously, don't ever think that prayer is a cop-out. Last November, we were in Seoul. One pastor in a very large church told us that every day of the week except Sunday they have daybreak prayer meeting. That didn't surprise me. Most churches in Korea do the same. But he said that in his church they have to have four daybreak prayer meetings, one at $4 \mathrm{a} . \mathrm{m}$, one at 5 , one at 6 and one at 7 . AT two of them, aaaat each sitting 5,000 people come to pray. Perhaps that is why his church is growing. It has over $\mathbf{6 0 , 0 0 0}$ members. That is more members in one Presbyterian church in Seoul than there are in my entire presbytery in Princeton. And perhaps that is why Korean Christians have so many more foreign missionaries than our own Presbyterian USA church does. What that Korean pastor's people pray for is not for more members, and not just for Korea. They pray for Asia and for all the anxious multitudes on that continent who are poor, and sick, and still do not know the overpowering joy of knowing our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Years ago one of our Presbyterian missionaries in Korea was going out with a Korean Bible woman for evangelism in some country villages. But when she before she went to pick up the woman at her house, the woman took a long, long time to come out. "Why did you take so long,", Mrs. Luckett asked. And the answer was: It does no good to go out without prayer". Which brings me to the third word in mission: Send.

SEND. "Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers, for the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few." I'm not going to ask all of you to get up and go back to Asia as missionaries. You have a mission right here and it is not an easy one. Evangelism in America is getting harder and harder, as our

American culture gets more and more secular. But don't forget Asia. It is the least Christian continent in the world. More than $\mathbf{8 0 \%}$ of the people in America at least still say they are Christians. Less than $\mathbf{8 \%}$ of Asia's 2 billion people profess to be Christians. Only $\mathbf{7}$ or $\mathbf{8}$ Asians out of $\mathbf{1 0 0}$ know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. Your church perhaps supports a missionary. You can perhaps send some something to help your former church back in Korea send out another Korean missionary. O how much Asia needs them.

Buddha was born in Asia, and there are more Buddhists in Asia than anywhere else in the world.
Confucius was born in Asia, and there are more Confucianists in Asia than anywhere else in the world.
Muhammad was born in Asia, and there are more Muslims in Asia than anywhere else in the world.
Have you forgotten that Jesus Christ was born in Asia, but there are fewer Christians in Asia than on any other continent.

And that, I believe, is the greatest missionary challenge in the world.
It is the old, old challenge of Jesus to his disciples.
"Seeing the multitudes, [Jesus] said to his disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send out laborers to the harvest."

LOVE, PRAY and may not be able to go, but you can always SEND.




Most of the world's people are sick and in pain. Healing is Christian mission. When Zaire received its independence in 1960 there was not a single doctor in the whole country. (J.H. Kane, Understanding Christian Mission, rev. p. 312). Yet when Jesus first sent out his disciples in mission, he told them, "preach the kingdom of God and...heal the sick." (Lk. 9:2).

Half of all the world's people cannot read. Literacy arc Rifle translation Christian missions. Withe mind learns through ore eye more than through any other sense transmission process. anal": More man half of the world's people suffer from injustice ono oppression. The never-ending struggle for human rights, both individual and collective, is a Christian mission. The Lord. .executes justice for the oppressed; [He] sets the prisoner free [and] lifts up those who are bowed down", says the Psalmist (Ps. 146).

The whole world today, they tell us, teeters or the brink of instant total ard unprecedented physical destruction. The making of peace in a warring world is a Christian mission. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God", said Jesus (Matt. 5:9).

If all this is not enough mission for 20th century Christians--the struggle against human hunger, ignorance, suffering, poverty, injustice and war-what dore can I say? Well, there is one thing I must say. You can do all this in mission, and still fail ir. the Christian mission. You can do all this, and leave the deepest need of the human heart unmet. Two-thirds of the world's people, after two thousand years, still do not know and believe the good news that Jesus
 "if they $\hat{g a}$ in the whole world and lose [their] own soul [s]." (Mt. 16:26) Put very simply, the Christian world mission in this 20 th century is to break through any barrier that. separates any part of the world from less Christ to tell the good news about Him in every possible waxy, to anyone who will listen. As Jesus used to say, "re that: hath ears to hear, let him hear".

- Charles Ẅ. Bryan, Foreign Mission Board senior vice president for overseas operations: "World populatron, standing at above 4.5 billion, = has more lost people than lived on /earth the year 1900. If this trend continues, the increase to the year 2000 will exceed the population - 1 g on earth as recently as 1980."

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    Apile 1483, 6.6
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- Samuel Hugh Moffett

Princeton, N. ${ }^{1}$.
A or sheath we simp the lands soy in a strange land? dot. You are Chuitions!

In the nome of the Father

ASIA: The Greatest Challenge
My subject this aftenom is Asia. I want to speak abut it portly because I was bon there and have lined there mort A my life - four important years in Chine (two under the retimalists, and two under the communists), and 44 year in Kree - 18 m North Kure (my fist is years), and 26 years in Seth Roues. I was mashed in Knee; ad why father and mother were mavined in Korea. Bat I did not come here to reminisce. I want to cell yon attention 5 Asian po no permed nears, but
because I this that Asia is the greatest economic, the
greater political and the peatest relifinis challenge in the wold. Apace - b om jechrus.

Tomonnu's Asia man well be the center of the cold, as Eunice once was, and as North America is now. Not totayis Asia, Int Komounw's, for Asia is champing fast. It has champed as much in two generation yeas as the west champed in two hundred years. There is an island of Knees east coast where then have a Wheel (a bicycle wheel) in the local schorl' museum. The island is so isolated and unis to there is no shelled hemspertation there and steeply fur the dea that then wont the children to know. what a wheel actually looks line. Yet not for away, joint dom that same east coast Knee s building what they say will be the layeot shipyard in the undid -
a lupe, sprawling modern trip - bises than ans thing ether in gapes on the U.S. Where then will be able to assemble and weld together in one price the biggest oil tankers yet made - laser than the Sinfine State binlduy.
 In the last 30 years much of Asce has passed thmoph three wrenching and bewildering revolutions. The 1950s were the years of (1) the furs revolution: the revolution of mump expectations. The west was fluent, the east pron. But all that Asia needed $t$ catch up, it was told, was to do away with lasssez-faine capitalism, and exploiting colonials and let natural planning bring freedom and prosperity, [preferably under the leadership of a Marxian elite, (which very few Ascains realized was not nelly Parxcianbon but leninisms.)] And it didn't wonk. So the 1960 s bumph in a second revolution, (2) the revolution of falling expectations. Planning didn't brim what was planned. As Gunnar Myrdal noted in his Asian Drama, Asia has been more planned against than planned. But that first disilnsiming collapse q dearly. held hopes has begin to pass, and it appears that Asia may be entering another pend, not so optimistic as the fist revolutern, and not so discouraped as the second. Asia may be on the verpe $q$ a thrid revolution, a revolution of reassessment. It

ASIA

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is pausing puzzled $t$ look back at the recent past, "the failures. of Mew The Tunsitural revolution in Chine and of $\Lambda$ economic mopridpements and mistakes everywhere the cominumit uned. that make a western recession look like the ape 7 gold. "Ac." stall undecided "is aokip what road it shield follow incs the future. A Turning points like this in history come rarely to contmints, and when the content is Asian it is no haperbile to call it the greatest challenge of our generation.

Ain's very-pize in the first and mot intunidatip pant $q$ the challexpe. It is the begest content in the uneld, $[25$ million square kilometers, which is] $/ 3 q$ all the land area on the surface $q$ the globe. And it is the must heavily populated content in the unld: $2 \frac{1}{2}$ billion people, which is absent $60 \%$ of all the approaching ${ }^{2 / 3} 7$ all the perter m- 'Use un ed eartin's mhabitants, Ben contrast, North America has 6\% of the would's people; Asias 60\%. [L.A. 8\%; Africa 10\%; Eunpe 15\%].

All the the cont meats
[Monday I spoke about Africa. But Africa.] Shrinker in comparim witt Asir. The second laxest country Asia - not the

Aging
$q$
largest, only the second laxpest is Indie. And Indie's population is greater than the combined prpmatorn of Africa and Late America pint together.

As in the laxest country in Asci, Chine, its population is so staggerimply great that the maxim of uncertainty abet China's population is laser than the entree kunan population of the United States. To put it another way, we not really know how many Chinese there are. The usual estimate is one billion, but all we can be eure of until a census is taken, is that there are somewhere between 900 milhin and 1 billion one hundred milton men coom and clildten in Chins a difference $q 200$ million which is not far Loom the ferine the census takers give us in the number $q$ people in the United States.

And Asci's population is still exploding. Quit how fast it is gnomic I suddenly realized when I saw a notice in the paper last year that Serine (use the capital city $q$ South Korea where Eileen and I have been anking as miswinaies)-Seme wow has $\frac{8,}{5}$ milling inhabitants. What. ch makes it the 6? layest city in the under. AT this note the city of Semi. Knee, could have ne people bethe long

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than the entree state o Pennsylvama. Sere has ex milline, Permsyluame. only about 11 million. What astonished me abut the figine was that I remembered hearing that when my father first set fort in Seoul in 1890, Serve's population then was given as between 100,000 and 150,000. There were topers in the bills then, -now just high-inse apartments.

Put the most challenging single statistic I have come across concerning Asia's population is this.. In the next twenty. years, one billion Asian children will pass the ape $q$ 18. To the economist who repreted thus, it was a inphly significant fact. It meant that one billion young people unold be added to the industrially active ape group in only twenty years. One billion people, he said, is about ten times the entree existing manufacturing labor force of North America, Western Europe and Japan combined. It meant, he said that "manufacturing in ill go east." Asia will become the industrial center of the world. (N.Macke, The Economist, Ind on. May 7, 1977, p. 42).

He may well be right. We kun how prompully Japan Las drawn the industrial and firianial center of unld balance away
from the Atlantic basin twwand the Pacific. And Asca's "muraide forn as they are sometumis called are only abut 15 yeans behind Gapan -
 Sonth Krees, Taiwan, Honp Korp and Singapne. They have, in joit the last Ifftem years, effectively stoten Asia's attention away from the Asin is beymmy $\hbar$ be monl untristed in the communit bloc's moreasingly empty claime. $q$ the "Muaide frm"
: starthing propeso (imdustral propess, standerd of living progess) alonp the lines of hitherto stiongly criticized western, semi-demicratic and


Kree is an example. In the eixteen years between 1961 and 1978 Sntth toven, once lagginy hrfelessly behind the industivalized and communized Noth, "enjoped the fastest expent-led economic grouth ever kuron by ampbody": The Korean ferple in the sonth... are better fed, better clothed, better emplnjed than evar befre in Then hustory. How has it been accongloshed? The Indm Econsinst ( $p y z$ ) gurted a sunvey's findmip "that Korea has tateen the Gapmenese road as Buitain shmeld have 15 years apo, and radically insisted on cost-rfective new machimery and plants. Sull urakip in an old factmy a CKnean ? compary will put up mpit next to it a new factimy which will ravie productivity three times mer. One Buntisi machime was found operctip in [Snth] Koree at thrue times the productivity rate at wurch it perates
in Britain, and at only one-thnd the labour cost." Socialists tend to sneer at Smith Knee's capitalist economy, claiming it is built on slave labor, to make the rich inches and the pons pones. Actually, $t$ is communist Nuts Green that has the slave labom. Nuts Knee n had the industical advantage when the country was divides after Wold War II, with midustry concentrated in the nth, and the poorer, agricultural sonth left far behind.
, In no ideological slave to capitalism. As a Christian I have misgivings abmestanitaicic passion for maternalist gain. But, pragmatically I am fr r whatever, mode in ll rescue the mort people from the anguish. Their n on poverty. I note that communism smettinis does better on dividing the wealth, but doesnit know how to produce t. By contrast, Suint Korea has done better than mort of the thing used in managing it do both. To gite the Indon Economist pam, (south Kra)
"Knee, is.. ore of the few developing countries with a mo ne equal mane distribution than Sweden.".

Bat otter cutup the dezziny economic oppunturities ahead In at least parts of Asia, and the one billion yous unkus who will be added $\$$ the lamer force there in the next twenty years, the economist, Nomen he lee led, sobering second toropett
writer had a sobering affer-timight. What will happen to the future of the world if three same one billion Asian yon th dost turn into workers as they one by one pass the ape $q$ expition?
Trent Then, he said, we face the term/ning poomility that then will frow what what he called one a the other " $q$ "the three modern roads to hell": terrorism, war, or over-population.
 H amply become parents at the rate there fathers and mothers did in Asia. There isl be no more room for so many people, and the earth will become a living hell.

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That to me, is a part $f$ the "procter challerve" Hat a Asia. "The harvest is platens, but the lebreers are few."

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Austher challupe is the challexpe of chunch grouth in Asia. As a contmint, Asia cannot bepin to match Africe's explrime chuch gunth. Pant some of the fartest growing chunches in the uneld are in Asie. $\qquad$
Kneen is an example. What a conthast between my fatheris Kover and Kree today. He left San Francisco in 1889, and almost tur munthe lates reached Knee, in Gamuary 1840. The conntry was sealed opaint all freipon rendence except for two litte permip, two treit prots. The intexin was fremdden tervitory, unless special ferminion was pranted. All public propapation qu freign relipion anywhere was frimidian. The pust Protestout minumaing had reached Krea fine years bepre my fattere, hat the handfin of misimaines on the field there in 1890 were corped up in the safety of the treaty pats.

My father, Samnel A. Miffet, hed a laye streah q Suotish stublnuness m him. He chefed at thex lead prescinptinis apaint the preachmp of the popel, and stood the restiaints only do linp, then, beginnj in 1891 he bepan to take lomper and lomper tups into the foriniden untensi.

At one point he staped In several montts in what is unv the eapnital y Nost Knea, Pyenpyong. A mob strined him in the streets, but cild not drive him ont.

At that time, in 1890 , the number of Protestant Chustain in all Knee, North and Sunth (the county was not then dinged) was ant me hundred, and there were only two ting little churches, one Methodist, one Presbatevion, both am the capital city, Sere, which was me $q$ the permitted treaty pots. Today, cist knee and it is hard to get int $q$ spin $q$ a church steeple There area ant $10^{\frac{2}{2}}$ milhmi Chixtains connected with some church, Catwisic on Protestant, which is $25 \%$ of the population.

There are 4 milton Prestatenains in Korea, which is more Ham we have in the Hinted Tresuntevion and Sonthem Presbyterian churches combined in this country. Rove has the loupest Presmiteinan semmary in the uneld, 1600 students (Angl hines are not quite comparable to you seminar statstisis here, for though the main corse there is for college graduates, very Kean semming has a very important and fairly loge propam In hash schorl graduates). And where else in the unld except knees in ll pom find a danton Preshitevian chuck with a monnuy attendance attendance, ut membership- q 20,000 people. Its membership is over Y0,000 many y whom cannot attend in the morning.

A recent visits, an expert on clench punt, shot h his head m leaving -Knee. "It blows ny mind", he said. later he unite "Presbitenains started m Genera, but the longest Presbyterian church in the unild is in Sere, Kea. Methodists stastel in England, but the lappet Methodist church in the url is in Seal, Korea. Pentecstalisin, as a 20 the c. moment, started in the U.S.A., but the leqeest Pentecostal congregation in the whit unld (200,000 members) is in that same ut q Semi, Knee:"

What made the Korean chuck gum? Ane them (my ot with prods.
me answer has been quin to the grestorn, but when all is said and done fou have improved upon an answer guin by ny fatties years apo when Knee was even then one of the minades of the muxumany movement. Syce the first dramatic leap in church growth had occurred in my father's territion, a communion o ingoing was sent to ask hum the secret. I think his answer disappointed them. It was tor simplistic. Too pretustic. Bunt I think he was mpht.
"For years", he said, "we have simply held up before these people the Wand o God, and the Holy Spins hes dame the rest.

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## Korea - 777777777

obstacles to the spread of the gospel, animism has been more of ten than not an indication of opportunity rather than resistance. It has been in the religious soil of antimism that church planters have reaped their most spectacular harvests. Korea has been no exception.

Qovernment opposition is another factor that might seem to affect adversely the growth of the church but which sometimes has the opposite result. When it is intense and prolonged it can for a time wipe out the organized ecclesiastical structure as it has in North Korea since 1945. Two-thirds of the Christians of Korea were once in the north but there are now no regularly meeting congregations left. But in same circumstances opposition only strengthens the fiber of the church and lays the groundwork for future growth. Lunacharsky, the Russian communist, warned, "Religion is like a nail. The harder you hit it, the deeper you drive it into the wood."

When the Japanese annexed Korea in 1910 and began to harass the church as a genter of continuing Korean patriotism, church growth slowed perceptibly. But the authorities found that the church was the one free Karean organizationf they could not quite control. Christians were the backbone of the great, nonviolent Korean independence demonstrations of 1919. Again in the years before World War II Christians fought bitterly against compromise with Japanese-imposed Shinto worship and were persecuted for their resistance. Ultimately, however, this only served to identify the church more closel $y$ in the popular mind with anticolonialism and with Korean nationalism and helps to explain the enormous popularity of Christianity after the war. A second
 Kruen, shasyy the hope and aspristino of the nation. (Cf.Chm

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explosion of church growth occurred. Christianity could no longer be stigmatized as foreign. It had become Korean, sharing the hopes and aspirations of the nation.

Contributing to the process of indigenization was a wise missionary policy that made the church an independent, self-governing Korean entity as rapidly as possible. As soon as there were enough ordained Korean elders to outvote the missionaries, Presbyterians, for example, cut the Korean church loose from its mission apron-strings. They established the self-supporting, autonomous Presbyterian Church of Korea which has now ;became in its various groupings one of the five largest bodies in the so-called "third world" of younger churches on the mission field. Methodists, Holiness, Baptist, Pentecostal, Adventist and Salvation Anmy churches have likewise flourished. The visitor to Korea is rarely out of sight of the cross on the spire of a Christian church. In Seoul alone there are more than $\mathbf{1 5 0 0}$ Protestant churches, and when Billy Graham held the final meeting of his crusade in June more Koreans flocked to hear him than had ever before gathered in one place at one time to hear the good news preached.



add the provilenvo of God in history. Above all, the , rovillense of God. Paul said it best long ago: "God fives the invrease".

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Knea in ml y me $f$ the $\operatorname{suc}$ cess strines $f$ mision in Asies. In 1900 in all Asice there were only 19 milhon Chnsturis, and mot $y$ them were nominal Catuohiss in the Philippmes.

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The countres in Aice with the lapeest numbers y Protestonts (iod. mdy. Mmps)
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from 19 milhin in 1900, the total Chustain constituency in Aive has gurn to 128 millin today, which is a grouth rate 3 Tumis as fast as the general populatuon.

Some say that witt the chch grousing so fast in Asir, it is no linear a minimary challempe. When I cree bach to the United States and speak of 38,000 Protestant churches in the city y Semi aloe, the iffy where we have been minumaines, and when I mention that Korean Chustrain plant 6 new churches every day in South Knee, it makes people ask, "Then why so $\sigma_{0}$ Asia as miswnaires? Where is the missing held, anyway."
(To arawn that grestin, I mut tum in drip to
another side the Asian stroy. Statistics q church growth, which I have been emphasizing, never tell the whole story. Bot Fin one thin they are oren inflected, thigh Them remain the I Iandememoned Tom Ind
 tater ont $q$ their context in population growth can be denpernsly susleadup. With all the church grouts in Asci ponce 1900 , there are still 2 billing non-Xins in Asia, of that is half the population q the whole used. Sven in knee, with it explosion of Chistion garth, there are moe un-Clunitain today than there were 92 years apo when my father first set foot in that land.

The groith $f$ the chac in Asie daes not sugial the completion of the misum; 't merks the bepinning $f$ a new stape in minim. Asce is sutl a minim field, but uno it is mre than a contmint $f$ receiving churches. It has become a contmint $q$ sending chunches $a$ and misions in Ascia has a new hone base, a base in Asia isif.

This s what Acchbiship Temple noce called "the great new fact of om dan," the inse of the yomper clunches to join in ith oldes, me tried chuches like ous, in what can for the firs the be "called "a uneld Chisition mision." We canpit a ghmpe of the new doy 65 years 40 in Kree.

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The day $A$ the westem misumany is not wes - not as ling as western chuches untend to remaim "real chunches" Real chunches have minsiniaies. But we have now partures - the churcher of Aprice, letim Americe and Asice. There are todey 15,000 musumanis at wonk around the unld fuom the youper chuches of these there contments.

And Asie in stul the preatest challenpe to them all, pr Asia is stell a continent uneached for Gross Chint. Bundahe was brun in Asve. And Asin has more Budllists then amp other contmint in the unld. Confucuns was boon in Asia. And Asia has more Conpunanists than any othes contment in the uneld. Mohemmed was bonn in Asie. And Asien has mne Muslmis then ary other contmint in the uned. Chist, was bon in Asce. Part Asca has fewer Chisitains, and a smaller percentape y Chisitain in its population then am sther contiment in the nould. Only 310 - Asich is Chustan.

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## ASIA'S CHALLENGE

1.e: :
N.y subject today is Asia. I was born there and have lived most of my life there--four important years in China (two under the nationalists and two under the communists), and 44 years in Korea, 18 of thiem in North Korea as a boy, and 26 in South Korea after the division. I was married in Korea, and my father and mother were married in Koreã. That should be enough to make me as much-Asian-as Amperican. But that is not why I have chosen Asia as the topic of today's lecture. I wart to speak about Asia because I believe that Asia is the greatest economic, the greatest political, and the greatest relicious challenge in the world. i: :

Asia is, becoming the center of the world, as Europe orice was, and as North America is now. Not today's A.sia, but tomorrow's, for Asia is changing fast. It has changed as much in two generations--my father's and mine--as the west changed in two hundred years during the industrial revolution.

There is an island off Korea's east coast where they display a wheel, a bicycle wheel, in the local school museum. The island is so isolated and rises so steeply from the sea that no wheeled transportation is possible there, and the islanders want their children to know what a wheel actually looks like. Hence the wheel in the museum. Yet not far away, just down that same east coast is what is said to be the largest steel shipyard in the world, a huge, sprawling thing, bigger than anything either in Japan or the United States, where the Koreans will be able to assemble and weld together in one piece the biggest oil tankers yet made, ships larger than the Empire State building.

In the last thirty years much of Asia has passed through three wrenching and bewildering revolutions. The 1950s were the years of the first revolution: the revolution of rising expectations. The west was affluent; the east poor; but all that Asia needed to catch up, it was told, was to do away with laissez-faire capitalism and exploiting colonialism, and let national planning bring freedcm and prosperity to the people, preferably under the leadership of a Marxian elite (which
very few Asians realized was not really liarxianism at all, but Leninism).

At any rate, whatever it wās, it didn't work--that first revolution. So the 1960 s and 1970 s brought in a second revolution, the revolution of falling expectations. Planning did not bring in what was planned. As Gunnar Myrdal noted in his Asian Drama, Asia has been more planned against than planned, and it doesn't like the taste of the bitterness of the failure of its revolutionary dreams.

So now Asia seems to be entering another period, not so optimistic as the first revolution, and not so discouraçed as the second. After the disillusioning collapse of dearly held hopes, it seems to be on the verge of a third revolution, a revolution of reassessment. China is the all-important example. The Chinese communists are pausing, puzzled, to look back at the recent past, at the failure of Mao Tze-Tung's cultural revolution and at the fall of the gang-of-four, ana yzing economic misjudgments and mistakes of the communist world that make a vestern recession look like the age of gold.

In sharp contrast to the economic failure of Chinese communism there lie across the Yellow Sea two examples of startling, non-communist success. Since 1952 the only consistently democratic country in all Asia has been rich, capitalistic lapan. And in between China and Japan is a pattern for smaller Asian countries --South Korea, an uneven mixture of authoritarianism and democracy, an amazing economic success, and significantly, one of the miracles of modern Christian missions.

The challenge of choices open to Asia today is overwhelming and almost frightening: It is a continent, still undecided and asking what road it should follow into the future. Turning points like this in history come rarely to continents, and when the continent is Asia, which holds half the people in the whole world, it is no hyperbole to call it the greatest challenge of our generation.

Asia's very size is the first and most intimidating part of the challenge. It is the biggest continent in the world, 25 million square kilometers, which is one-third of all the land area on the surface of the globe. And it is the most heavily populated continent in the world: $2 \frac{1}{2}$ billion people, which is about $60 \%$ of all the earth's
inhabitants. By contrast, North Anerica has only $6 \%$ of the world's people. (The full list is Asia $60 \%$, Europe $15 \%$, Africa $10 \%$, Latin America $8 \%$, and North America 6\%)

Let me try to put Asia's pepulation into continental perspective. Asia's second largest country in population is India. It is only second largest in Asia, but India's population until rather recently was larger than the combined populations of the whole continents of Airica and Latin America put together.

As for the largest country in Asia, China, - the number of Chinese is so stacceringly great that up until the recent census the margin of uncertainty about China's population was about as large as the entire known population of the United States. To put it another way, we still do not really know how many Chinese there are. The usual estimate was one billion, but all we were sure of until the 1980 census was that there were somewhere between 900 million and 1 billion 100 million men, women and children in China--a difference of 200 million which was not far from the census figure for the total number of people in the United States.

And Asia's population is still exploding. Just how fast it is growing I suddenly realized when I saw a notice in the Korean papers that the population of Seoul, where Eileen and I have been working as missionaries, had passed the 9 million mark and was nearing $9 \frac{1}{2}$ million people, making it the sixth largest city in the world. That is twice as many people in one Korean city than you have in the whole state of Washington $(4,150,000)$. What most astonished me, though, about that statistic was that I remembered hearing that when my father first set foot in Seoul in 1890, Seoul's population was then estilmated at only about 125,000. There were tigers in Seoul's hili's, then, now there are just high-rise apartments, and Seoul's annual increase in population is greater now than its whole population was then.

But the most challenging statistic I have come across concerning Asia's population is this. In the next twenty years, one billion Asian childlren will pass the age of eighteen. To thke economist who reported this fact, it was highly significant. It meant that one billion young people would be added to the industrially active age group in only twenty years. One billion people is about ten tix'mes
the entire existing manufacturing labour force of North America, western Europe and Japan combined. This meant, he said, that in our time, "manufacturing will go east". Asia will become the industrial center of the world. (N. Macrae, The Economist, Lond., May 7, 1977, p. 42)

He may well be right. We know how powerfully japan has drawn the industrial and financial center of world balance away from the Atlantic basin toward the Pacific. And Asia's "miracle four", as they are sometimes called (South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore) are onily about fifteen years begind Japan in just the last two decades these four small territories effectively stóen' Asia's attention away from the communist bloc's increasingly empty claims of economic progress, and from Japan's seemingly unattainable heights. Asia has become more interested in the startling industrial and standard of living progress of these smaller states along the lines of hitherto strongly criticized western, semi-democratic and capitalistic models, - mas than in the failed promises of communist economics and totalitarian cultural revolutions.

Korea is an example. After the division of the country in 1945 between north end south, the agricultural south, cut off from energy sources and industrial power bases, lagged hopeless $s_{h}^{\text {m }}$ behind industrialized and now communist North Korea. Then, beginning about 1961 or 1962 the south pulled itself together and with American help built its own economy. For the next sixteen years it "enjoyed the fastest export-led economic growth ever known" by any country in the world. Today the Korean people in the south are better fed, better clothed, and better employed than ever before. How has it been accomplished? Unlike Britain, and more like Japan, Korea combined a willingness to work with a radical insistence on cost-effective new machinery and plants. The London Economist (op. cit. p. 42) reported that it found a British machine operating in South Korea at three times the productivity rate at which it was operating in England.

Socialists tend to sneer at South Korea's capitalist economy, claiming it is built on slave labor to make the rich richer and the poor poorer. Actually, it is communist North Korea that has the slave labor, - a wori, forl patronizingly fed, clothed, housed and herded to work every day by the state.

I am not unaware of the weaknesses of capitalism. As a Christiar I have misgivings about the capitalistc passion for materialist gain. But pragmatically I am for whatever mode will rescue the most people from the anquish of their poverty and the burden of their oppression, whether it comes from the right or from the left. I note that communism sometimes does better on dividing and distributing the wealth, but does not know how to produce it. Capitalism, produces, but does not equitably divide the wealth. Surprisingly, little South Korea has done better than most nations in managing both to produce and to distribute fairly. To quote the London Economist again, "[South] Korea is..one of the few developing countries with a more equal income distribution than Sweden", which is widely admired for its equâlitarianism.

But after noting the dazzling economic opportunities ahead for at least parts of Asia, and the industrial shift to the east as one a billion young workers are added to the iabor force there in the next twenty years, the economist I quoted above had a sobering after-thought. What will happen to the future of the world if those same one billion Asian youth do not turn into workers, as they one by one pass the age of eighteen? Then, he said, we face the terrifying possibility they they will follow one or the other of what he called "the three modern roads to hell": terrorism, war, or over-population. Suppose for example that all these youths simply become parents at the rate their fathers and mothers did in Asia. Then, there will be no more roomi for so many people anywhere on earth and the world will become a living hell.

To me, however, the thought of one billion young people in Asia becoming 18 years of age in the next 20 years meant much more than what the economist was thinking of. Whatever Asia's huge and growing population may mean to the world of the future, it means to me that during the next twenty years one billion young Asians will be passing through the most evangelistically reachable years of their lives. It means a billion young Asians to be reached for Jesus Christ in the years when they will be most open to His call. That to me is an important part of the "greatest challenge" that is Asia.
"The harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few"

The secoric challenge is Asia's variety. Not just its size. Asia is first in just about everything. It has the driest place on earth, the central desert of Iran. And it has the wettest place on earth, Cherrapunji, in Bengal, where once nine meters of rain fell in less than a month. That's not inches; that's 30 feet of rain in one month.

And Asia has the coldest place in the world. South of Irkutsk in Siberia the temperatureregularly falls to 94 degrees below zero Fahrerheit ( -70 C ). And Asia has the hottest place in the world, the Persian Gulf, where the surmer sun shoots the temperature up over 122 degrees Fahrenheit ( +150 C ). And of course Asia has the lowest spot on earth, and the highest--the Dead Sea and Mount Everest. (See J. Herbert, An Introduction to Asia, 0xford, 1965, pp. 23 f.)

But the real challenge of Asia lies not in the variety of its natural phenomeria, but in the diversity of its people, the multiplicity of its languages, and the changing patterns of its religions.

I remember when I was teaching at Nanking Theological Seminary in China. Some of our students had to talk to each other through interpreters, or through writing. They; were all Chinese but they spoke different languages. One of them told me, "We Chinese have 50 different major lanquages". "No", said another, "we have 200". They were both partly wrong. If you count lesser variations, China has 1000 different languages. But China is only $60 \%$ literate. 400 million Chinese cannot read. Language is a challenge, but the greater challenge is literacy. We could saturate China with Bibles, and still 400 million people (almost twice the population of America) would be without the written word of God.

As if that were not enough, compared with China India is a basket-case. With 700 million people, India is only $37 \%$ literate. It has 1,680 different languages. Even if we could send 1500 Christian missionaries tomorrow, each would have to consider learning a different language to find the best possible bridge to reach all India with the gospe1.

The beauty of literacy work is that it is not thke threat to defensive, suspicious national governments that any kind of Christian outreach labeled "evangelisni" has to face. Nations want their peopie to
learn to read, and those who teach them, find in that work the best singie tool God has given us for quiet, one-on-one evangelism in the undeveloped parts of our world.

The very variety of Asia's languages, 2,728 in three of its countries alone (China, India and Indonesia)--tcgether with Asia's prevailing illiteracy ( 13 of Asia's least developed courtries are $80 \%$ illiterate--make literacy-evangelism the greatest challenge and the greates opporturity in Christian world evangelism today.
"The harvest is plentecus, but the labourers are few".

The third challenge is the challenge of church growth in Asia. I mentioned briefly that one of the elements of Asia's variety was the changilng patterns of its religions. The oriental religions have been the east's most treasured heritage--Islam in west Asia, Hinduism in south Asia, Bucichism ard Confucianism in east Asia, and throughout all Asia the pervasive superstitions of the Asian folk religions, Shamanism, magic Taoism, Shintoism and spiritism.

But almost unnoticed by students of Asian religion is the 180 degree reversal in East Asia of the religious spectrum in this century. Compare East Asia (China, Japan, Korea) in 1900 and 1980. In 19003 out of $4(72 \%)$ of East Asia's 500 million people were superstitious, animistic folk-religionists. By 1980 only about 1 in 6 (18\%) professed to follow the old animist ways, and a new catecory had displaced folk religion as the dominant recorded religion of east Asia. $50 \%$ of East Asià and become "professedly non-religious" in 1980; only $18 \%$ were still folk-religionist; only 13\% were Buddhist; and another new category, atheist, was in fourth place. Communism may have failed economically in East Asia, but combined with the rise of western materialism it seems, on the surface at least, to be driving religion out of the Asian mind.

But there is one religious faith which though still small, has quadrupled its percentage of the East Asian population since 1900. In percentages of population Christianity cannot begin to match the old eastern religions in Asia, but some of the fastest growing churches in the world are in Asia.

Korea is an example, but I will be talking about that in another lecture, and Korea is only one of the success stories of

Christian mission in Asia. In 1900 in all Asia there were only 19 million Christians. (Most of the statistics I use come from the one thousand pages of the World Christian Encyclopedia), and about a third of those 19 million Christians in Asia were nominal Catholics in the Philippines (about 6 million). Today India alone, with 27 million Christians has more believers than 211 Asia had at the beginning of this century, and the Philippine Christian population now numbers almost 50 million.

Those figures include both Catholics and Protestants together. The countries in Asia with the largest numbers of Protestants are:
 But the most Christianized country in Asia, statistically', is Papua New Guinea where $97 \%$ of its 3 million people profess to be believers.

From 19 million in 1900, the totâl Christian constituency in Asia has grown to 128 million today, which is a growth rate three times as fast as the general population explosion in Asia.

It is this bewildering cultural variety, interestingly enough, that contrary to popular opinion, raises questions about current calls for a moratorium on western Christian missions to Asia, and suggests instead that a continuing participation in world mission by the churches of the west is not only theologically imperative but anthropologically and culturally defensible. Western missions still bear the stigma of association with colonialism, it is true. But less so, even in India than in Africa, and in Korea, of course, anti.-coionialism is anti-Asiatic, not anti-western. In fact, at the Asian Center for Theological Studies and Missions in Seoul where we were experimenting with training Asians for missions to Asia, we were startled to find deeper antagonisms to mission contacts between some Asian countries (India and Pakistan, for example, and Korea and Japan, Iran and Iraq, and so forth) than between those same countries and their western Christian contacts. It may be significant that the two Asian

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In tricentives, Chuntsinty carnot hem to match the nd eatem relyuim, th the news "no cellyin" Irue of the fastest growing chunches in the uneld are in Asie.

Krea is an example. What a contsast between my fatheris Keree and Krees torday. He leyt Sam Francisco in 1889, and almost tur moiths lates reached Knee, in Ganumer 1890. The conntmy was sealed apaint all freien residence except for two sitthe qeasies, two theits pants. The intesin was formdden tevitory, unless special jermuion was pranted. All public propapation q a freign relyum anywhere was Inindiden. The puit Protestant misumaing had reached Kree fine years bepre my fatiser, but the handinl of misisiaines on the field. there in 1890 whe cooped up in the sefety $q$ the treaty ports.

My fother, Samuel A. Mriffet, had a linge streak of burtish shublmuness in him. He chaped at thex leacl prescriptisis on the preaching of the popel, and stord the ristiants only do lorp, then, beganij in 1891 he bepan to tate emper and lomper tups into the fribiden untenri. At ore point he atajed in several mantus in what is unv the cagnital g Noth Knce, Pyenpyons. A mob strined him in the starost, $b+$ qued mot 1 . 1

At that time, in 1850, the number of Priestant Chustouns in all Knives, North and Seth (the country was not then divided) was airnut hundred, and there were coly two timing little churches, one Methodist, one Presbyterian, both in the capital city, Sere, which was me $q$ the permitted treaty pros. Today, wist knee and it is hard to get int $q$ suit $q$ a church steeple there are $11 \frac{1}{2}$ milhmi Chistains connected with some church, Catholic os Protestant, which is $30 \%$ of the population.

There are ${ }^{9}$ within Prestatenain in Korea, which is mo se than we have in the limited Trisugtevion and Sontiem Presonterian cluncher combined in this country. Rove has the lowest Prashterion semmany in the ind, students (they hires are not quite comparable to you seminary statistics here, for though the main course the is in college graduites, vern Koran semminery has a very important and fairly longe program In hash schorl graduates). And where else in the untold except tree will pom
 find a downtown Presbyterian church with a [money attendance attendance, not memberstios- a 20000 berle Ts memheration.in. in. 40 am

Srme say that with the chch pruving so fast m Asix,
it in no linper a minimany challoupe. When I corme bach to the united States and speak of 3:000 Protestont clunches in the city y Semed alree, i itm whire we have been misumavies, and when I mention that Kovern Chustain plout 6 now churches every day in Sonth
Knee, it makes perple ask, "Then winy so $\tau_{0}$ Asia as missunaines? Where is the missin feld, amyway?"
(To answen that gnastion, I munt tum mo drinp oos)
another side the Asian story. Statistios
q chuch growth, which I have been emphasiging, neven tett the whole stiry. Bot Fin ome thmi then are otein infleted, thand theman the

 taten ont of thesi context in population granich can be dowerousdy tanen int of theis isntext in pipulation groith can be wing turleadup With all the chuch grouth in Asie pance thuse are sutt 2 billim non-Xins in Asia, of that is half the pppuletion q the whole uned. Even in kree, wita it exfloion of Chintion gmith, there are mue un- Clunitain today than there were 92 years aco when my father fisit set fort in thot land.

A recent visits, an expert on clench growth. shone his head in leaving Korea. "It blows my mind", he said. Later he write "Presbytexains started in Genwa, but the longest Prestanterian clunch in the unild is in Sene, Kea. Methodists stactel in England, bat the longest Mechanist church in the wold is in Seal, Koses. Pentecostalisin, as a $20^{\text {II C. movement, started in the U.S.A., but the laxest Pentecostal }}$ congregation in the whore wold ( 200,000 members) is in that same att o Sere, Knee:". [TO FAGE 18?]

What made the Korean chuck grow? A Mire than (mydimelfondas.
me answer has being quin to that question, but when all is send and done fur have implied upon an answer gwen by buy factious years apo when Knee was even then one of the minades of the musimaing movement. Smile the first dramatic leap in. chunch growth had occurred in my fathers tesition, a communion y inquing was sent to ask him the secret. I thine his answer disappointed them. It was too simplistic. Too preitistic. But I think he was might.
"For years", he said, "we have simply held up before these people the Wand o God, and the Holy Spins hes dine the rest.

The prouth $f$ the chich in Asia daes wat sognal the completion of the mision; "t marks the bepinnin $f$ a new stape in misim. Asie is sull a misim frild, but now it is mre than a contmint, $A$ receiving churches. It has ao well, become a contmint $q$ sending chunches 1 and missims in Asia has a new home lase, a base in Asia utself.

Whe This is What Achbisisip Temple mence called "the great new fact of om day," the inse $q$ the youper chunches to jrin in th older, mere tried chunches like ouss, in what can for the firt tume be called "a uneld Chistion mision." We canput a ghaper y thas new dory 65 years ayo in. Korea.

In 1907, year after the annival of the frist Prestentenan muscmain in Korea, and as sorn as there were enoush Korean eldess it from a majinty in a preshytery, the mision wisely tumed aner the chunch to the kneaw. IT in modependent \& seff-gmerning Presisptenan church \& Kocea. Its firit responsibility was Th ondain the fist praduates of the litte semmang which had bein nominzed as the fint Korean minsitess of the Korean Treshnterian Chuch.

The day $A$ the westem misumany is net were - not as ling as wettern chunches untend th remain "real chusches" Peal chusius have misinianies. But we have new pastrous - the chuches of Mrica, letim Americe and Asis. There are toden 15,000 mominariso at work around the uneld from the youpa chuches of these thee cintments.

And Asie in stul the greatest challones $\hbar$ them all, pr Asios is seill a contmint meached for Garss Chist. Buddhe was brun in Ascie. And Asien has mree Budlhists than any othes contmint in the uneld. Cinmunes was bovn in Asik. And Asia has une Conmuanists than ary other contmint in the uneld. Mohemmed was born in Asie. And Asies has mne Muslmis than ary sther contmint in the unld. Chist, was bovn in Asie. Put Asia has fewer Chisitain, and a smaller percentepe y Chustaris in its population them amp othes continent in the cuold. Quly 310 a Asia is Chustari.

The challenge totan is, wo suiclly defint prom what it was 2000 years aco. "The harvest timbey is planterns, hant the labous are stitl tor few." Bul we have new peritners - and that is one ot the innt ingmpisent syms of lute $\#$ that the mid mining the


Asia. The greatest chrisionn cimulenite
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Matthew 9: 37-38.
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Asia：THe Greatest ChRISTIAN GHALLENEE $\qquad$


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century $\Lambda$ relpinis ofecturan in thes Eut Atas 500 milh perpe were sopation filh. 72.7 Eant Ascas 500 milhm perple were seyentitum folk. relycmints, animists. Bay 1950, the prontere had follen firm 72\% 末 18\%, and a, "packed displaced pok-nelyion in frit place $50 \%$ q. Asia had becme maxued non-relipini" bs
 "atherion," witi communom may have failed ecousincally in $\Sigma$. Asce, bat combined with the nie $g$ western matenalism, it seem the sumpe allat, t briving relyin ait 7 the Asian mind. Frik-relpin. Budahism, Tslam are fading No-relyim and athesim are rismig. But there is me relyion foith which Uash still smill, has quaduyled $23^{2}$, it percentere of the East Ascan prpulation smice 1900.

Korea is suly me of the success stries $f$ musion in Asias. In 1900 in all Asie there were only 19 milhinn Chusteris, and mot $y$ them were nominal Cathohiss in the Philippies.
Today India alme has mne them that: 27 millim Chistain, abunt equally divided between Cathokes and Protestants. Philypmin Chinstion ppunation has gromen to almost 50 millim.

The countres in Asice with the lapest numbers y Protestants Giod. ndis. Mno
are:

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Put the most Chunteanized conntri in Asie, statistically is Papua Now Gunee, where 979\% (96.6) $q$ the puple proten to be behewers.
from 19 milhin in 1900, the tetal Chuitan constituency in Asie has gromon to 128 millin today, which is a gratth rate 3 tumis as fast as the general peppulation.

